

MARRIAGE



The China Mail.
HONGKONG, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1893.

THERE are already a good many signs
of the colony of the nearness of the
Chinese New Year. One of these which
does itself upon public attention and
cannot be ignored is the old familiar
custom of cracker-firing. It may be
said that our Chinese fellow-subjects really
ward the first few days of the New

as a period of general joy and festivity, but there cannot be any doubt that it is a time which is found far from pleasant by many European residents. It is chiefly, and perhaps in the majority of cases solely, on account of the notices of cracker-firing. That cracker-firing should be regarded by anybody as a nuisance may be inconceivable to Chinese friends, but to Europeans, we cannot show that singular indifference to irritating sounds which is characteristic of the Chinese.

characteristic of Chinese, a nuisance it most undoubtedly is. The law of the colony in all events, regards it as a nuisance, and it is only by a special exemption from the operation of the law that the Chinese are allowed to indulge in this noisy kind of demonstration of certain times and under

at certain times, and particularly at the New Year. Within a certain specified time, they may fire crackers to their hearts' content without interference from the police. This is a generous concession to Chinese custom, and it is not too much to expect them to receive it as such and to respect the

ditions under which it is granted. As a matter of fact, however, these conditions are to a large extent ignored. Backer-firing begins a long time before the period of grace, and is kept up an unusually long time after that period has expired. This, we need hardly say, makes the nuisance all the more

itating to European residents in the colony, and at the same time shows that the Chinese do not sufficiently appreciate the special indulgence that is extended to them. It has always been considered wise and politic by the Government of this colony to interfere as little as possible with Chinese domestic

it is possible with the ancient customs of the Chinese, where these have not been repugnant to British ideas of law and order and morality. Acting on this principle, the Government allows them to indulge in certain demonstrations which would unquestionably not be tolerated in any city at home. Such a

monstration is that which occurs once a year when the Chinese population turns itself up to cracker-firing. That the practice may really mean, whether it has any precise meaning, we do not know. It may be that at one time it was considered the most excellent device for driving

ay devils—although it seems incredible that such astute people as the Chinese should believe that the devils could so easily scared—but it would be an insult to the intelligence of the great majority of those who indulge in the practice. Hongkong to say that they believed in devils being very much afraid of them.

... We presume that the only real reason that could be given for the pyrotechnic demonstration is the familiar very potent one (with the Chinese), 'no custom'. Even on this ground, a certain amount of latitude might be allowed to the Chinese citizen in cele-

ing the advent of the New Year; he ought not to be allowed to convene the law by firing crackers at his own sweet will and without respect to the period set aside for that pastime. Attention has been called to the same object before, and the result of extra vigilance on the part of the police for a

y or two resulted in a large number of cases at the Magistrate's. If we collect aright, as many as 200 offenders appeared in one day, and paid a fine of each—which gives a pretty clear indication of the large extent to which cracker-firing privilege is abused.

TELEGRAMS.
(SUPPLIED TO THE 'CHINA MAIL'.)
(Via Southern Line.)
THE CHOLERA.

SINGAPORE, Feb. 13.
Cholera has appeared at Marseilles.

—

THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The House of Commons has voted the
address to the Crown. Mr Lowther's
amendment to restrict the influx of destitute
has been rejected.

MR. GLADSTONE'S HOME RULE BILL
SINGAPORE, 14th February, 1893.
The object of the Home Rule Bill is to
establish a Legislature at Dublin for the
administration of purely Irish affairs.
It is to consist of a Legislative Council of
eight members to be elected for a

of eight years; an assembly of one hundred and three members who will serve, for the first term, five years. A Vicaroy, political, and exempt from religious liability, appointed for a term of six years will receive from the Sovereign full executive powers. He will be assisted by the Executive Committee of the Privy Council, and under its advice

give assent to bills and exercise the
of veto.
The Irish members are to be retained at
Minister, their number being fixed at
any, but they will be excluded from vot-
on bills or motions expressly con-
to Britain. The Judges are to
removable. The constabulary is to
gradually not abruptly disorgani-

force, remaining under the control of the Viceroy during transition, will afterwards be replaced by local police under local control. Ireland will contribute an equal share of Imperial charges, but Irish parliament is excluded from dealing with customs, excise, post offices and so on. The Parliament to meet on

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Co.	Yokohama	To-morrow

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London, &c.	To-morrow
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China Station.	
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H. Adair	Hongkong

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	Chungsha
L. G. Tufnell	Singapore
M. McQuhae	Singapore
Wheeler	Yokohama
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J. Balfour	Hongkong
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N. Moore	Hongkong
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F. C. B. Addington	Hongkong
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G. Haugh	Shanghai
O. G. May	Hongkong
derson	Shanghai
Kirby	Hongkong
	Hongkong
H. B. Palliser, R. N.	Hongkong
	Hongkong

According to H. M. Navy list.
Wynham Street, Hongkong.

LOANS.	Amount.	Value.
Chinese Exports 1886	Tls. 767,200	Tls.
DEBENTURES.		
Hongkong Hotel Mort- gage Debentures, 1889	400,000.0	\$50

Vessel's Name.	Rank or Grade.	Captain.	Flag and Rig.	Tons.	Date of Arrival.	Discharges or Agents.	Destination.	Remarks.
Steamers.								
Attile	3	Ellis	Brit. str.	1493	Feb. 13	Gibb, Livingston & Co.	Sydney, &c.	To-day
Atk	2	Storm	Danish str.	682	Feb. 13	A. R. Manly	Hatphong	To-morrow
Atk	2	Reverie	Brit. str.	1285	Feb. 13	J. P. M. S. Co.	Saigon	To-morrow
Benjamin	3	McIntosh	Brit. str.	1285	Feb. 13	Gibb, Livingston & Co.	Saigon	To-morrow
Bong	3	Olson	Norw. str.	484	Oct. 10	Order		
Charters Tower	2	Murray	Brit. str.	1306	Feb. 13	Mitsui Bussan Kaisha	Kutchinotzu	
Chelona	5	Gass	Brit. str.	1574	Feb. 13	Jardine, Matheson & Co.	Calcutta	To-morrow
Chero	3	George	Brit. str.	1330	Feb. 13	Arnhold, Karberg & Co.		
Chinook	3	Smith	Amer. str.	3548	Feb. 13	J. P. M. S. Co.	San Francisco	18th inst.
Cintra	3	Duse	Brit. str.	1197	Feb. 13	Siemens & Co.		
Compania de Juan	4	Beltran	Span. str.	654	Feb. 13	Brindan & Co.	Manila	
Compania de India	3	Marshall	Brit. str.	3003	Feb. 13	Canadian Pacific Railway Co.	Ybama & Vancouver	22nd inst.
Compass	3	Wilke	Brit. str.	991	Feb. 13	Jardine, Matheson & Co.		
Compass	3	Hall	Brit. str.	674	Feb. 13	Douglas Steamship Co.	Swatow	
Compania de Gen. St. Jacob	3	Blade	Dutch str.	1568	Feb. 13	Jardine, Matheson & Co.		
Compania de Gen. St. Jacob	3	Holm	Brit. str.	1484	Feb. 13	Gibb, Livingston & Co.		
Compania de Gen. St. Jacob	3	Jones	Japan. str.	571	Feb. 13	Gec. R. Stevens	Yokohama	To-morrow
Compania de Gen. St. Jacob	3	Brub	Ger. str.	985	Feb. 13	Wieler & Co.		
Compania de Gen. St. Jacob	3	Quil	Brit. str.	1845	Feb. 13	Butterfield & Swire	Java	To-morrow
Compania de Gen. St. Jacob	3	Piper	Ger. str.	998	Feb. 13	Wieler & Co.		
Compania de Gen. St. Jacob	3	Kemp	Brit. str.	2312	Feb. 13	Arnhold, Karberg & Co.	London, &c.	To-morrow
Compania de Gen. St. Jacob	3	Lincoln	Brit. str.	1504	Feb. 13	M. S. N. Co.		
Compania de Gen. St. Jacob	10	Branch	Brit. str.	825	Feb. 13	Butterfield & Swire	Sandakan	To-morrow
Compania de Gen. St. Jacob	3	Lehmann	Ger. str.	762	Dec. 31	Siemens & Co.	Shanghai	K'loon Dock
Compania de Gen. St. Jacob	10	Blanke	Ger. str.	2007	Feb. 13	Melchers & Co.	Yokohama & Hio	
Compania de Gen. St. Jacob	3	Brit.	Brit. str.	419	May 23	Butterfield & Swire		K'loon Dock
Compania de Gen. St. Jacob	1	Skapan	Brit. tug.	61	Feb. 13	A. R. Manly		
Compania de Gen. St. Jacob	3	Bohr	Ger. str.	656	Feb. 13	Siemens & Co.	Nagasaki, &c.	To-day
Compania de Gen. St. Jacob	3	Farrand	Brit. str.	1867	Feb. 13	Arnhold, Karberg & Co.		
Compania de Gen. St. Jacob	1	Wood	Brit. str.	1196	Feb. 13	Shewan & Co.	Yokohama	To-morrow
Compania de Gen. St. Jacob	3	Martin	Brit. str.	999	Feb. 13	Butterfield & Swire		
Compania de Gen. St. Jacob	3	Binge	Ger. str.	630	Feb. 13	Melchers & Co.		
Compania de Gen. St. Jacob	3	Jones	Brit. str.	2293	Feb. 13	Butterfield & Swire		
Compania de Gen. St. Jacob	4	Brading	Brit. str.	1673	Feb. 13	Siemens & Co.		
Compania de Gen. St. Jacob	10	Seymour	Brit. str.	2101	Feb. 13	P. & O. S. N. Co.	Europe, &c.	To-morrow
Compania de Gen. St. Jacob	10	Seymour	Brit. str.	1876	Feb. 13	P. & O. S. N. Co.	Yokohama	To-morrow
Sailing Vessels.								
Compania de Gen. St. Jacob	3	Jenn	Brit. bge.	1770	Feb. 13	Jardine, Matheson & Co.		
Compania de Gen. St. Jacob	3	Hullman	Ger. bge.	1430	Feb. 13	Jardine, Matheson & Co.		
Compania de Gen. St. Jacob	3	Pilger	Nat. bge.	333	Feb. 13	Wieler & Co.		
Compania de Gen. St. Jacob	3	Koch	Siam. bge.	654	Feb. 13	Chinese		
Compania de Gen. St. Jacob	3	Burland	Brit. bge.	478	Dec. 2	Siemens & Co.		
Compania de Gen. St. Jacob	3	Noyes	Amer. bge.	814	Feb. 7	Kovilon Dock Co.		
Compania de Gen. St. Jacob	3	Butman	Amer. sh.	1661	Feb. 7	Jardine, Matheson & Co.		
Compania de Gen. St. Jacob	3	Colcord	Amer. bge.	382	Nov. 23	Captain		
Compania de Gen. St. Jacob	3	Newell	Amer. sh.	1515	Dec. 26	Shewan & Co.		
Compania de Gen. St. Jacob	3	Shepherd	Amer. botine	700	Dec. 14	Butterfield & Swire		K'loon Dock
Compania de Gen. St. Jacob	3	Thom	Brit. bge.	748	Jan. 17	Wieler & Co.		

Name.	Rig.	Tons.	Guns.	T.H.P.	Captain.	Where at.
Academy	deepdraft vessel	1790	4	8189	Com. Chas. H. Adair	Hongkong
Admiral	cruiser 3rd class	1779	8	—	Comd. Scott Rogers	Hongkong
Andromeda	cruiser 3rd class	1400	14	3440	Captain Clisterbank	Shanghai
Arcturion	surveying ship	740	—	—	Commander A. M. Field	Hongkong
Arcturion	g.-b. 3rd class coast defence	833	3	349	—	Chungking
Arcturion	gunboat 2nd class	455	4	463	Lieut. Com. L. G. Tuinell	Singapore
Arcturion	twin screw battle ship	8499	10	10000	Captain J. M. McQuhae	Singapore
Arcturion	cruiser 2nd class	10	439	500	Comd. Cassin	Yokohama
Arcturion	gun vessel 2nd class	755	5	105	Commander Chisholm Batten	Pooshew
Arcturion	cruiser 2nd class	3730	13	7290	Capt. Chas. J. Balfour	Hongkong
Arcturion	cruiser	2375	20	7600	Captain Angus MacLeod	Singapore
Arcturion	gunboat 1st class	780	6	1200	Lieut. Commander Ingram	Shanghai
Arcturion	cruiser	1013	2	140	Captain W. M. Moore	Hongkong
Arcturion	gunboat 1st class	745	6	1200	Lieut. Com. Hewitt	Canton
Arcturion	gunboat 1st class	755	6	1200	Lieut. Comd. C. B. Addington	Hongkong
Arcturion	cruiser 3rd class	1770	2	3500	Commander Burr	Shanghai
Arcturion	gunboat 1st class	715	6	1200	Lieut. Comd. G. Heugh	Shanghai
Arcturion	gunboat 1st class	805	6	1200	Lieut. Comd. C. G. M. y	Hongkong
Arcturion	cruiser 2nd class	4092	12	6990	Captain Henderson	Shanghai
Arcturion	gun vessel 2nd class	735	6	10	Commander Kirby	Hongkong
Arcturion	g.-b. 3rd class coast defence	363	3	348	—	Hongkong
Arcturion	surveying ship	5157	11	—	Commander H. B. Pulliser, R. N.	Hongkong
Arcturion	coast defence ship, armoured	2769	4	1450	—	Hongkong

* Flagship of Vice-Admiral the Hon. E. Freemantle, K.O.B., C.M.G.